

Weekly Update

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Spring in D.C.! Please Plan to Attend the ASDWA Member Meeting

We encourage all ASDWA members and their staffs to join us for the ASDWA Member Meeting on March 10-12, 2014 in Washington, D.C. This will be a co-located meeting of ASDWA, the Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA), the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC), and EPA. We plan to convene four joint sessions (two on March 10th and two on March 11th) as well as have plenty of time for drinking water-specific topics. A bird's eye view of the meeting is as follows:

Monday (3/10/14)

Early a.m.: Joint Session #1 (Nutrients)
Late a.m.: Joint Session #2 (Water Quantity/Extreme Weather)
Early p.m.: Drinking Water Rule Development
Late p.m.: Drinking Water Data Management

Tuesday (3/11/14)

Early a.m.: Joint Session #3 (CWA/SDWA Collaboration)
Late a.m.: Joint Session #4 (SRFs/ULOs)
Early p.m.: Drinking Water Rule Implementation
Late p.m.: Small Water System Capacity Development

Wednesday (3/12/14)

Early a.m.: Drinking Water Security
Late a.m.: Partners Panel; State Resource Needs

The registration page on ASDWA's web site (www.asdwa.org) is up and running. Just go to the horizontal tool bar and click on "Conferences." There's also a link to the hotel (Washington Marriott) registration page. We look forward to seeing you in March.

National Water Quality Monitoring Council's 8th Edition of "National Water Monitoring News"

The National Water Quality Monitoring Council (or "Council"), has just released the eighth edition of their online newsletter *National Water Monitoring News*: http://acwi.gov/monitoring/newsletter/national_monitoring_news_fall2013.pdf. This newsletter provides a forum of communication among water practitioners across the Nation. In support of the national Council's mission, this newsletter is geared to foster partnerships and collaboration; advance water science; improve monitoring strategies; and enhance data integration, comparability, and reporting. This edition highlights many events, activities, and new products and we hope the information is useful for your water needs. Among the topics included are the following:

- Updates on the Council's 9th National Monitoring Conference (April 28th

Quality and
Safety of Plastic
Pipe and Piping
Components

10. January 29th EPA
Webinar on
Managing
Watersheds with
WMOST
(rescheduled
from the 22nd)
11. Wastewater Bill
Looks at
Affordability

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- May 2nd, 2014)

- Council Resource – Release of NEMI 4.0 (National Environmental Methods Index)
- New Tools and Technology:
 - USGS Techniques and Methods Report on the Use of Optical Nitrate Sensor
 - Molecular Sequence Data for Diatoms of the US
 - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Development to Estimate Lake Chlorophyll Concentrations
 - U.S. EPA's Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT)
- Updates on monitoring including:
 - U.S. EPA's National Aquatic Resource Surveys
 - Midwest Stream Quality Assessment
 - BLM and EPA Collaboration to Conduct Stream and River Surveys on Public Lands
- Spotlight on State programs from Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Florida
- The Volunteer Bacteria Monitoring Collaborative in the Connecticut River Watershed
- New National Tribal Water Council Website as a Water Monitoring Resource for Tribes and Tribal Consortia
- Gravel Augmentation Project to Bring Salmon Back to Deer Creek

AWWA Sustainable Water Management Conference Will be Held March 30-April 2, 2014

The American Water Works Association will hold its Sustainable Water Management Conference this year from March 30-April 2 in Denver, Colorado. The conference will include the following topics: solutions for balancing the benefits of conservation with the costs; managing infrastructure; developing robust supply models and watershed management plans; water reuse; resource management; and green infrastructure. For more information and to register, visit the AWWA web site [HERE](#).

GAO Report Cites Need for TMDL Revisions to Improve Water Quality

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has issued a report of findings from its study to examine the EPA's Clean Water Act Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program that is intended to help the nation meet the designated uses and water quality standards established for U.S. water bodies. The study specifically looked at EPA and state responsibilities in developing and implementing TMDLs, knowledge about established TMDLs, key features needed to achieve water quality standards, and the ability to facilitate implementation. GAO also asked water resource experts to review a random sample of 25 long-established TMDLs and surveyed state officials to develop its recommendations for Congress and EPA.

GAO's recommendations included that EPA should issue new regulations for

TMDL development, adding key features. Further, Congress should consider revising the Clean Water Act's approach to addressing nonpoint source pollution. In response, EPA has agreed with the need to add key features to TMDLs but did not agree to issue new regulations.

For more information, visit the [GAO web site](#).

Listen in on the January 28 EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Study Webinar

EPA has rescheduled its next Hydraulic Fracturing Study webinar for January 28th at 2:30pm (eastern). During the webinar, participants will learn what subject-matter experts discussed during the recent Technical Roundtable regarding the outcomes of the 2013 Technical Workshops, stakeholder engagement, and plans for the draft report. The peer reviewed papers that are being developed by EPA scientists and that have contributed to the draft report on potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources are available [here](#).

Registrants for the January 21st webinar, that was cancelled due to inclement weather, will be automatically re-registered for the January 28 date. If you were not previously registered and would like to listen in, please [register here](#).

USGS Shares Information on Working with Tribes to Gain Water Knowledge

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has posted information on its web site about how USGS scientists work closely with Tribal leaders around the country to address water availability and water quality issues on Tribal lands. Tribal lands are home to an extensive network of USGS streamflow gages and groundwater monitoring stations. Coupled with quantitative models and scientific research, this monitoring network provides objective data and information that can be used by the Tribes to address vital issues such water rights, water supply, flood-warning predictions, contamination, and sustainability of critical habitats and healthy ecosystems. For example, in the State of Washington, cooperative monitoring, assessments, and research with more than 20 Tribes has led to water science and habitat restoration for threatened salmon species and other fish. In addition, the USGS worked with the [Yakama Nation](#), [Washington State Department of Ecology](#), and the [Bureau of Reclamation](#) to create a [comprehensive model](#) for the entire Yakima River Basin that simulates the groundwater system and its interaction with rivers and streams. Visit the USGS to read this [Top Story](#) and find more information [about activities in your state](#).

West Virginia Lifts “Do Not Use” Restriction

Customers of West Virginia American Water Company have received a cautious, “all clear” to resume normal water usage activities in the wake of the early January chemical spill that affected Elk River sources of drinking water for Charleston and neighboring communities. Despite new information provided by Freedom Industries on January 21st that an additional chemical, called PPH, was also part of the original spill, the West Virginia Bureau of Public Health has consulted with the CDC and reports that currently available toxicological information on PPH indicates that there are no new health concerns given the small amount of PPH that was in the tanks and released. West Virginia American, however, is still advising that pregnant women may want to continue

using alternate water supplies until a determination is made that the chemical in question, 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (also known as crude MCHM), is at non-detectable levels in the water distribution system.

NGWA Offers Free Webinars for Private Well Owners and Stakeholders

The National Ground Water Association (NGWA), with support from EPA, is offering its first three free webinars over the next month as part of its new series. The series will include a total eight webinars, so stay tuned for more dates and details. State drinking water programs may want to participate in the webinars and promote them to relevant audiences. All of the Webinars will also be archived for later viewing. You may register for one or all of them at www.wellowner.org. Following are the dates and details about the upcoming webinars.

- **January 28 at 1:00pm (eastern): Testing Your Well Water: Where Do You Begin?**

In this Webinar, participants will learn what every well owner should test for and how to determine what is locally occurring and worthy of testing. Presenter: Michael Schnieders of Water Systems Engineering in Ottawa, Kansas.

- **February 4 at 1:00pm (eastern): Treating Well Water: Where Do You Begin?**

There is no one-size-fits-all water treatment system. This Webinar will help you learn some key fundamentals in selecting the right water treatment system to protect your water quality. Presenter: Gary Hix of the Arizona Water Well Association.

- **February 26 at 1:00pm (eastern): Water Well Maintenance: Where Do You Begin?**

Water wells are expertly engineered systems that sometimes require maintenance. Learn how to stay on top of maintenance needs to protect water quality. Presenter: Gary Hix of the Arizona Water Well Association.

Qs & As on the Quality and Safety of Plastic Pipe and Piping Components

Our colleagues in the Water Quality Association have developed a set of Qs and As, specifically designed for state drinking water administrators and their staffs, to address key questions about how to determine the quality and safety of plastic pipe and piping components. Please see the attached document.

January 29th EPA Webinar on Managing Watersheds with WMOST (Rescheduled from the 22nd)

EPA is hosting a webinar on Managing Watersheds with the Watershed Management Optimization Support Tool (WMOST) on January 29th. Please note that this was rescheduled from January 22nd due to inclement weather in the DC area. This webinar is part of the monthly Safe and Sustainable Water Resources webinar series focused on EPA water research. The WMOST tool supports community applications of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles. It allows water-resource managers and planners to screen a wide range of practices for cost-effectiveness in achieving watershed or water utilities management goals, such as meeting projected water demand and minimum and

maximum in-stream ecological flow targets. The target user groups for the tool are municipal waterworks superintendents, local water resource managers, and consultants.

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Time: 12:00pm – 1:00pm (eastern)

Phone lines will open at 11:45 am. (Space is limited and on a first come, first served basis.)

Phone: 866.299.3188

Access code: 919.541.2184

Login to attend the webinar at:

<https://epa.connectsolutions.com/sswrmonthlywebinar>

You will be prompted to log into Adobe Connect. Please enter as guest to access the webinar.

Wastewater Bill Looks at Affordability

HR 3862, the Clean Water Affordability Act, would offer some financial relief to municipalities and regional sewer authorities that experience significant hardships to finance wastewater infrastructure projects. Introduced on January 14th by Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH), the measure calls for several changes to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act:

- EPA shall update guidance that assesses financial capacity to: provide greater emphasis on local economic conditions; consider economic conditions and demographic groups within political jurisdictions for regional systems; do not use “prescriptive formulas” as the only useful indicator of financial capability; consider site-specific local conditions and use measures such as median household income within the context of other economic measures rather than as a threshold; and consider the larger economic outlook of a community and other essential community investments related to water quality improvements.
- State capitalization agreements would be revised to require that 15 percent of each cap grant would be dedicated for assistance to municipalities of less than 10,000 that meet affordability criteria for activities on the state’s priority list.
- The Clean Water SRF would be amended to extend repayment terms from 20 to 30 years and allow additional subsidization (beyond what is outlined above).

The measure has been referred to the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.